

Business Area # 9:
Porter Square/ North
Cambridge

Boundaries: bordered by the Somerville line, the Arlington Line, the Alewife Brook Parkway and the Boston & Maine Railroad

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentrations include: all retail and commercial establishments between 1840 Massachusetts Avenue and the Arlington line, including Porter Square Mall. All commercial properties along Rindge and Sherman to the border of the RR tracks



Porter Square

The three **commercial robberies** in the Porter Square business district during the first two quarters of 2003 included a bank heist in January, a gas station stickup in May and a drugstore holdup at knifepoint in June. All of the incidents were unrelated and remain under investigation. Eight of the fourteen commercial robberies in this business district since 1997 have been bank heists.? From 1995 to 1999, the Porter Square business district averaged 45 **commercial breaks** annually. Throughout that five-year period, this area had been plagued with continuous series of smash and grab incidents between 2000 and 2300 Mass. Ave. Directed patrols have been effective in curtailing these patterns. The number of commercial breaks has dropped over 70% since the year 2000. Five of the nine commercial breaks in Business District #9 in 2003 have been forced entries into churches and gas stations in the 2300 and 2400 blocks of Mass Ave. No discernible spatial or temporal patterns have been identified for this crime type in 2003.? **Larceny from the person** decreased by ten incidents (-66%) with a marked decline in the thefts of purses from shoppers at local grocery stores.? Four of the five **shoplifting** arrests in 2003 involved homeless subjects stealing perishable items from supermarkets.? A high percentage of the **larceny from building** crimes were from area churches, day care centers, schools, and assisted living homes with employees personal property being pilfered.

CRIME	2 nd Quarter 2002	2 nd Quarter 2003	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	17	21	+23%
Larceny from Person	15	5	-66%
Commercial Burglary	5	9	+80%
Commercial Robbery	1	3	*Inc.
Shoplifting	19	5	-73%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	20	19	-5%

*Note: percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to lead to a statistically misleading percentage.